



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

***Raised Bill No. 1140***

LCO No. 4969

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED )

***AN ACT CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND A STUDY OF THE REGIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate  
4 of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and  
5 shall submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city  
6 having a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town  
7 having no board of finance or otherwise to the authority making  
8 appropriations for the school district, not later than two months  
9 preceding the annual meeting at which appropriations are to be made.  
10 The money appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of  
11 public schools shall be expended by and in the discretion of the board  
12 of education. Except as provided in this subsection, any such board  
13 may transfer any unexpended or uncontracted-for portion of any  
14 appropriation for school purposes to any other item of such itemized

15 estimate. Boards may, by adopting policies and procedures, authorize  
16 designated personnel to make limited transfers under emergency  
17 circumstances if the urgent need for the transfer prevents the board  
18 from meeting in a timely fashion to consider such transfer. All  
19 transfers made in such instances shall be announced at the next  
20 regularly scheduled meeting of the board. Expenditures by the board  
21 of education shall not exceed the appropriation made by the  
22 municipality, with such money as may be received from other sources  
23 for school purposes. If any occasion arises whereby additional funds  
24 are needed by such board, the chairman of such board shall notify the  
25 board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority, as the  
26 case may be, and shall submit a request for additional funds in the  
27 same manner as is provided for departments, boards or agencies of the  
28 municipality and no additional funds shall be expended unless such  
29 supplemental appropriation shall be granted and no supplemental  
30 expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted through the  
31 appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of education  
32 shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary showing  
33 (1) the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount received  
34 from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools, and (3)  
35 the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools. For  
36 purposes of this subsection, "meeting" means a meeting, as defined in  
37 section 1-200.

38 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall develop a financial  
39 information system to assist local and regional boards of education in  
40 providing to the State Board of Education budget and year-end  
41 expenditure data in conformance with the provisions of section 10-227.  
42 The financial information system shall be consistent with regulations  
43 concerning guidelines for municipal financial reports adopted by the  
44 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to the  
45 provisions of section 7-394a.

46 (c) During any fiscal year in which the chief elected official of a  
47 municipality determines that there is a fiscal emergency or other

48 extraordinary circumstance, such chief elected official may negotiate  
49 an agreement with the local or regional board of education for such  
50 municipality for the return of any unexpended funds appropriated to  
51 such board pursuant to this section. Upon reaching an agreement, such  
52 board shall immediately transfer such funds to the municipality's  
53 general revenues, provided such transfer does not reduce the  
54 municipality's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year  
55 below the minimum budgeted level required for such town pursuant  
56 to subsection (e) of section 10-262i or the minimum expenditure  
57 requirement pursuant to section 10-262j.

58       Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
59 study issues related to the regionalization of school district governance  
60 and functions to reduce costs and eliminate duplication of services.  
61 The task force shall examine the feasibility of joint purchasing  
62 agreements among boards of education for the purpose of purchasing  
63 instructional or other supplies, testing materials, special education  
64 services, transportation services, or food or food services.

65       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

66       (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

67       (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

68       (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
69 Representatives;

70       (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

71       (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
72 Representatives; and

73       (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

74       (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
75 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member

76 of the General Assembly.

77 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
78 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
79 filled by the appointing authority.

80 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
81 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
82 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
83 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no later  
84 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

85 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
86 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
87 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

88 (g) Not later than January 1, 2010, the task force shall submit a  
89 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
90 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
91 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
92 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
93 that it submits such report or January 1, 2010, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-222
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow the chief elected official to negotiate an agreement with the local or regional board of education for the return of unexpended funds appropriated to the board during times of fiscal emergency; and to study issues related to the regionalization of certain school district operations.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*